

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20, as follows:

To realize an entirely all solid-state vacuum ultraviolet laser light source of short wavelength, there is a need for a nonlinear optical crystal which has a double refraction index of about 0.07 and an absorption edge which lies in the range of short wavelengths of 150-160 nm. As prior art nonlinear optical crystals which satisfy these characteristics, the following ones have been known:

Sr₂Be₂B₂O₇ (SBBO),

KBe₂BO₃F₂.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9, as follows:

Therefore, the invention provides a nonlinear optical crystal. More specifically, the invention provides a novel nonlinear optical crystal for an entirely all solid-state generation of vacuum ultraviolet light, which has the required characteristics and is easy to obtain through crystal growth instead of the prior art SBBO and KBBF, and a wavelength conversion method using such novel nonlinear optical crystal, as well as an element and a wavelength conversion apparatus for use in the method.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the construction of a growing furnace used in an the embodiment of the present invention:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, as follows:

Fig. 3 is another a view showing another result of X-ray diffraction similar to that shown in Fig. 2.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8, as follows:

In addition, the growth of the KAB crystal of this invention is far more easy and far more efficient compared to the case of growth of SBBO and KBBF.